

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07 OMB-01 PRS-01 ACDA-05 SAJ-01

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R 181735Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9522
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GW, GE, WB,

SUBJECT: FRG REPORT ON APRIL 15 FRG-GDR NEGOTIATING
ROUND ON RAIL TRANSIT TRAFFIC

REF: BONN 5752

SUMMARY: IN APRIL 17 BONN GROUP MEETING, FRG HAS BRIEFED
ALLIES ON THE FIRST ROUND OF FRG-GDR NEGOTIATIONS ON RAIL
TRANSIT TRAFFIC. THE FOUR-HOUR NEGOTIATING SESSION WAS
HELD APRIL 15 IN EAST BERLIN, WITH FRG DELEGATION LED BY
PERM REP CHIEF GAUS AND GDR TEAM BY GDR DEPUTY TRANSPORT
MINISTER VOLKMAR WINKLER. FRG REPORT SAYS THE SESSION
WAS BUSINESSLIKE AND FRIENDLY. NEXT ROUND ON RAIL
TRAFFIC SET FOR MAY 20, ALSO IN EAST BERLIN. END SUMMARY.

1. READING FROM A REPORT, FRG REP (KASTRUP) BRIEFED
ALLIES ON APRIL 15 FRG-GDR NEGOTIATING ROUND ON RAIL
TRANSIT TRAFFIC. KASTRUP SAID THE CLIMATE OF THE TALKS
WAS BUSINESSLIKE AND FRIENDLY, THOUGH WINKLER WAS
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DESCRIBED BY GAUS AS "ROUGH HEWN." GAUS AGREED TO HOLD-

ING NEXT SESSION ALSO IN EAST BERLIN, BUT TOLD WINKLER THAT BONN ASSUMED LATER ROUNDS COULD TAKE PLACE IN FRG. WINKLER SIMPLY TOOK NOTE. KASTRUP SAID IT WAS CLEAR TO FRG THAT CENTER POINT OF TALKS FROM GDR VIEWPOINT WAS DOUBLE-TRACKING OF THREE RAIL ROUTES BETWEEN BERLIN AND FRG: A) BERLIN-HAMBURG VIA SCHWANHEIDE; B) BERLIN-HANNOVER VIA OEBISFELDE; AND C) BERLIN-MUNICH VIA LUDWIGSTADT.

2. FRG REPORT SAID THAT GDR ESTIMATED COST OF DOUBLE-TRACKING OF THE THREE ROUTES AT APPROXIMATELY TWO BILLION MARKS. KASTRUP SAID IT WAS CLEAR FROM TALKS THAT GDR WELL AWARE THAT SUCH A HUGE AMOUNT WOULD BE "IF AT ALL" A LONG-TERM MATTER WHICH WOULD ALSO BE DEPENDENT ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. GDR SIDE HAD NOT SPECIFICALLY ACKNOWLEDGED THE ABOVE, ADDED KASTRUP, BUT IT WAS APPARENT TO FRG TEAM THAT IT WAS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD. GDR WAS APPARENTLY WILLING TO MOVE AHEAD WITH CONSIDERATION OF LESS COSTLY RAIL PROJECTS IN ADVANCE OF AGREEMENT ON DOUBLE-TRACKING. IN RESPONSE TO A DIRECT QUESTION FROM GAUS, WINKLER MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE GDR WAS NOT LINKING THE DOUBLE-TRACKING QUESTION TO SHORT-RANGE MATTERS, EG. RECONSTRUCTION TO INCREASE CAPACITY OF THE SCHWANHEIDE STATION. GDR SIDE, HOWEVER, ONLY "TOOK NOTE WITHOUT COMMENT" OF GAUS' RAISING OF TWO RAIL MATTERS NOT INCLUDED IN THE GDR DECEMBER 9 MESSAGE: A) IMPROVEMENT IN PASSENGER SERVICE BY INCLUSION OF TRANSIT TRAINS IN IC AND TEE NETS; AND B) IMPROVEMENTS IN SYSTEM OF MAKING FREIGHT CARS AVAILABLE TO WEST BERLIN. COMMENT: THE ABOVE TWO ITEMS APPARENTLY ARE A PART OF THE FRG'S "ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES" WHICH BONN HOPES COULD BE DONE QUICKLY AND CHEAPLY AND BRING DOMESTIC POLITICAL BENEFIT TO THE COALITION (SEE BONN 4622). END COMMENT.

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3. KASTRUP SAID GDR SIDE WAS ABSOLUTELY UNGIVING REGARDING EAST GERMAN INSISTENCE THAT SENAT BE INTERLOCUTOR FOR QUESTIONS OF REOPENING THE BORDER STATION AT STAAKEN AND OF OPENING THE WANNSEE, CHARLOTTENBURG, AND SPANDAU STATIONS IN WEST BERLIN. GDR ARGUMENT WAS THAT THE ABOVE MATTERS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE QA, FALL UNDER SECURITY AND STATUS, THUS FRG NOT COMPETENT TO NEGOTIATE BUT SENAT WAS. GAUS, SAID KASTRUP, HAD EMPHASIZED TO WINKLER THESE ITEMS WERE PART OF AND SERVED TRANSIT TRAFFIC, AN FRG RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHICH SENAT HAS NO COMPETENCE. COMMENT: IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THESE MATTERS WERE INCLUDED IN GDR DECEMBER MESSAGE TO SENAT BUT NOT IN MESSAGE TO FRG. END COMMENT.

4. REGARDING FINANCING, BOTH SIDES RESTATED KNOWN POSITIONS. GDR INSISTS NO COSTS SHOULD FALL TO THEM WHILE FRG INSISTS ON USING A "COST-BENEFIT" FORMULA.

5. KASTRUP SAID THE FRG THOUGHT IT WAS OF SOME IMPORTANCE THAT GDR TEAM IN THIS FIRST ROUND ON RAIL TRANSIT WAS ONLY USING SESSION TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON FRG POSITION.

6. KASTRUP TOLD ALLIED REPS THAT ONLY A VERY SMALL CIRCLE WITHIN FRG HAVE ACCESS TO THE ABOVE INFORMATION AND BONN WAS THEREFORE REQUESTING THAT THE ALLIES ALSO HOLD IT CLOSELY.
HILLENBRAND

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